



The President's Daily Brief

10 March 1972

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

There is some evidence that Peking has taken steps to reassure Hanoi, and perhaps also Pyongyang, in the wake of the President's visit to China. (Page 1)

Continuing analysis of satellite photography indicates that the Chinese are developing a submarine-launched ballistic missile system at a coastal facility in northeast China. (Page 2)

Prime Minister Lon Nol is apparently preparing to move ahead with governmental changes that would make him Cambodia's president. (Page 3)

Israel Egypt 25X1
(Page 4)

Guatemala 25X1
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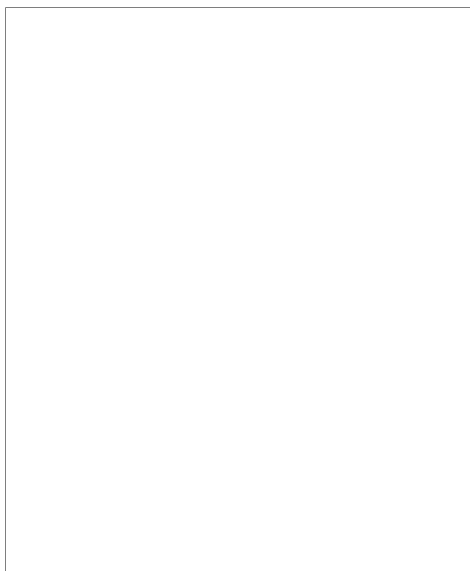
CHINA - NORTH VIETNAM

Cambodia's Prince Sihanouk has told Western newsmen that Premier Chou En-lai recently assured him and North Vietnamese Premier Pham Van Dong that Peking would not act, even secretly, as an intermediary in resolving the Indochina war. Chou is said to have stated that this position had been communicated to President Nixon. Sihanouk refused to say where his meeting with Chou had taken place.

There have been reports from Hanoi this week that the Chinese Premier visited the North Vietnamese capital on 3-4 March.

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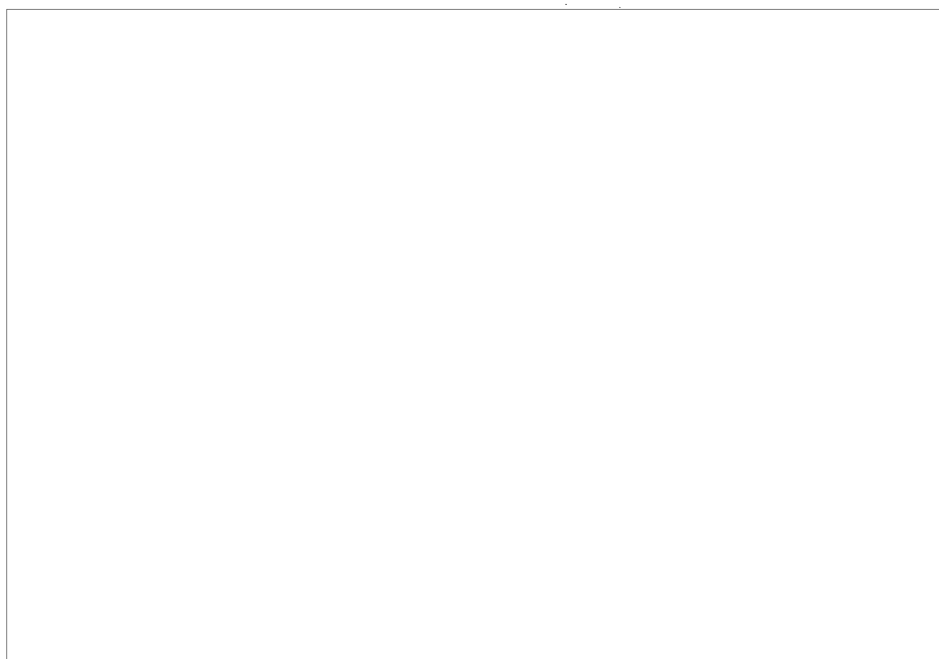
The persistent criticism of the Sino-US talks coming out of Hanoi suggests that the North Vietnamese are not mollified so far by any Chinese assurances. On 8 March--some days after Chou's reported meeting with Pham Van Dong--an authoritative article in the North Vietnamese Army's daily newspaper continued Hanoi's practice of quoting liberally from the Sino-US communiqué and statements made by the President during his visit and commenting sarcastically on them. The communiqué issued by Sihanouk and the North Vietnamese on 5 March--presumably also after Chou's reported meeting with Dong and Sihanouk--also contained adverse comments on portions of the Sino-US communiqué.



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CHINA

Our continuing analysis of satellite photography of the last several years reveals what appears to be a land-based facility for the development of a sub-marine-launched ballistic missile system at Chin-hsi on the Gulf of Liao-tung.

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CAMBODIA

Following his expected return to Phnom Penh on 9 March after a month's vacation in Kompong Som, Prime Minister Lon Nol is likely to press ahead with his project of making himself president. He presumably intends to seek a provision in the new constitution naming himself interim president pending national elections. Chief of State Cheng Heng, however, is balking on grounds that this would be illegal. An alternative may be to bypass Cheng Heng by having a reconstituted National Assembly--rather than the chief of state--promulgate the new constitution.

Some doubt also still surrounds the makeup of the new government. Constituent Assembly President In Tam, slated to become prime minister, may be having second thoughts. He is now telling US Embassy officials that Lon Nol has not actually offered him the job.

Meanwhile, members of the Constituent Assembly drafting the constitution have been meeting with government officials to resolve such controversial questions as military voting rights and the eligibility of royalty for public office. The latter issue is particularly sensitive since it bears directly on Prime Minister - Delegate Sirik Matak's ability to remain in the government.

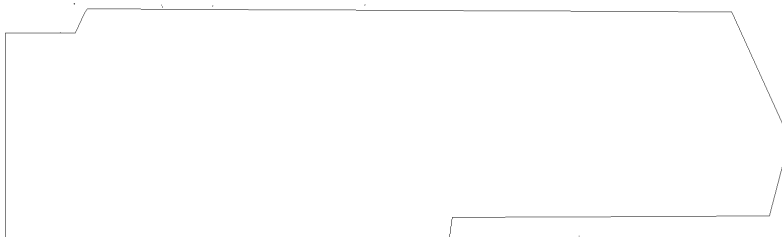
Apart from Cheng Heng, there is little evidence of opposition in important military or civilian circles to the impending political changes. Although a flurry of anti-government activity by some students in Phnom Penh is causing the regime some concern, government leaders appear determined to deal with student dissatisfaction with restraint. The students' opposition to Matak may, nevertheless, provide some ammunition to those among Lon Nol's entourage who would like to see Matak's influence curtailed.



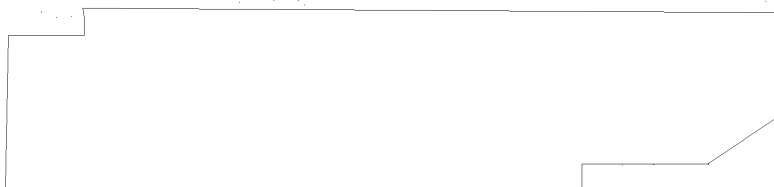
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EGYPT-ISRAEL



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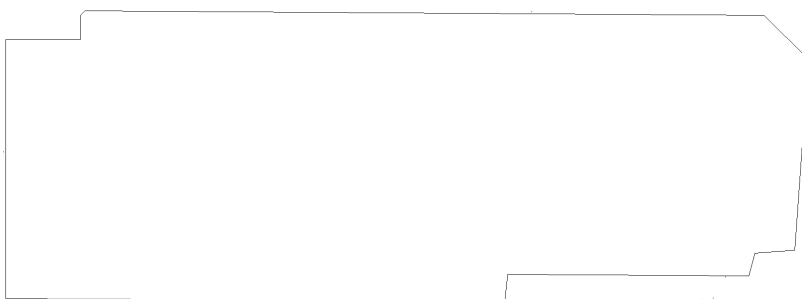


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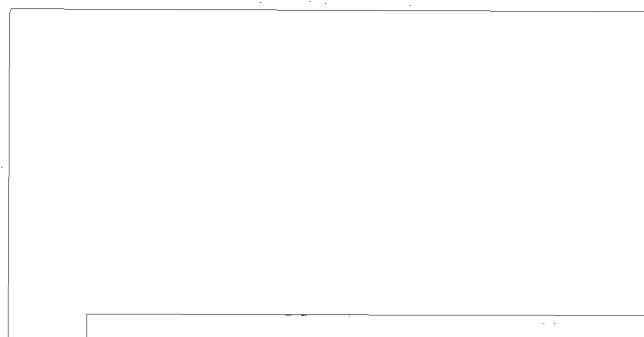
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GUATEMALA-UK

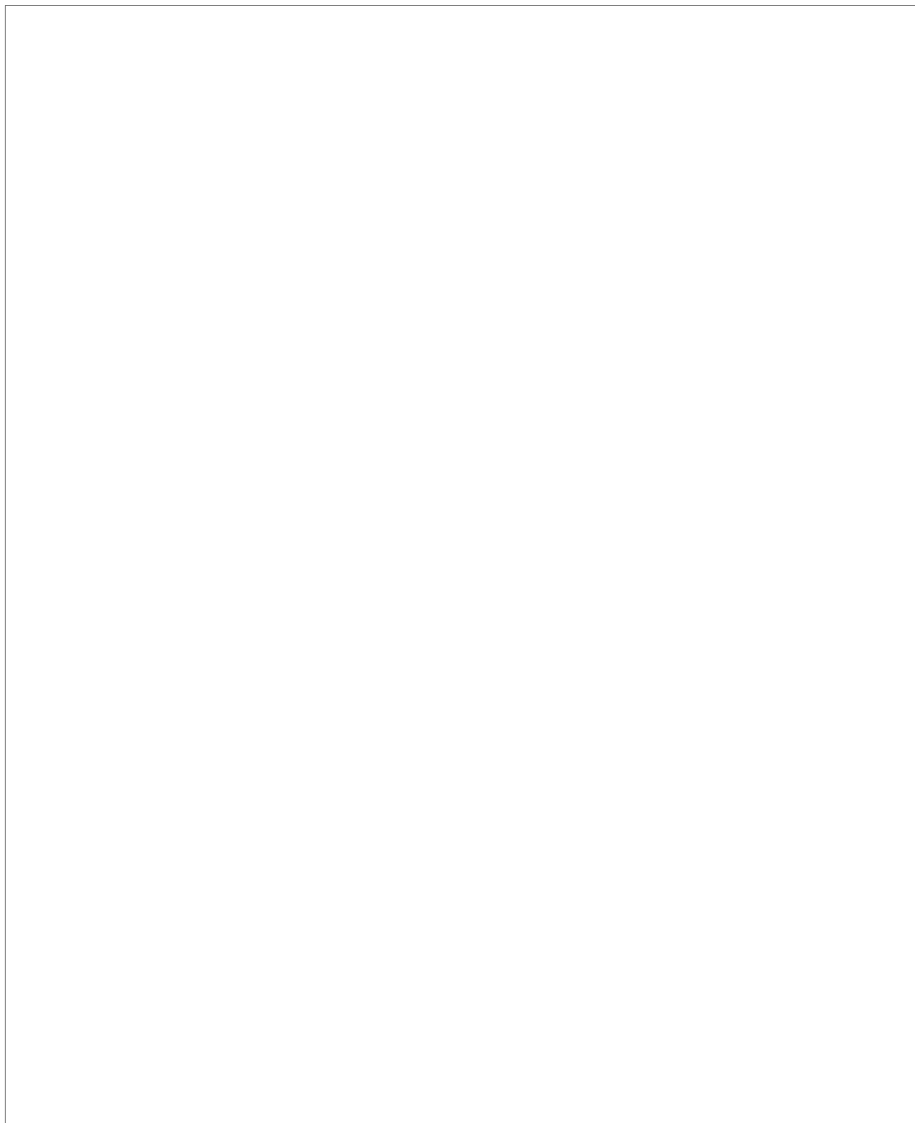


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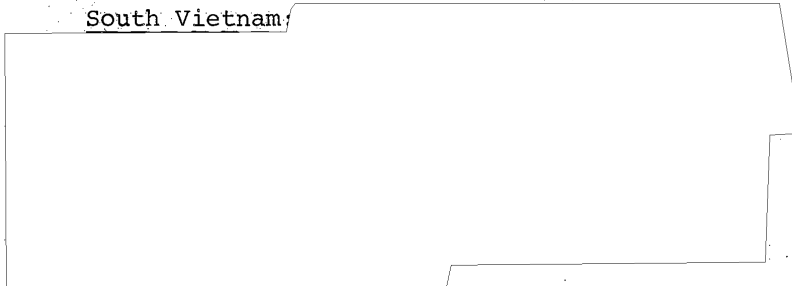


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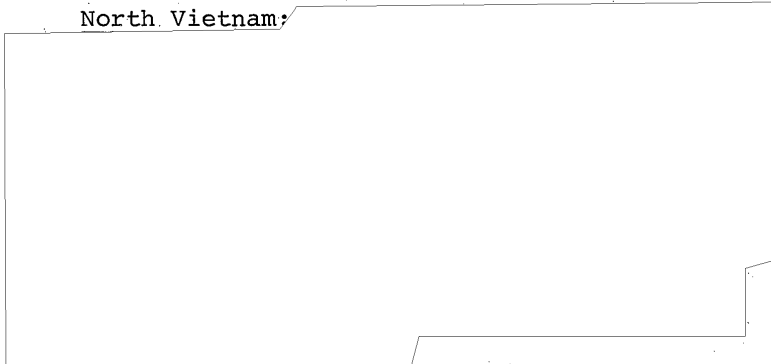
NOTES

South Vietnam:



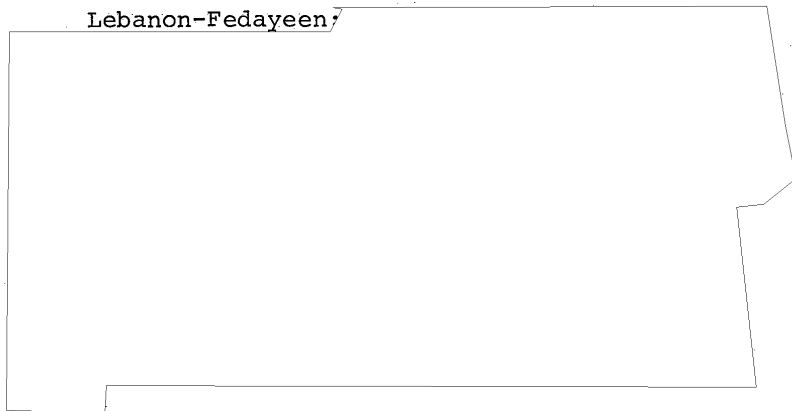
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North Vietnam:



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Lebanon-Fedayeen:

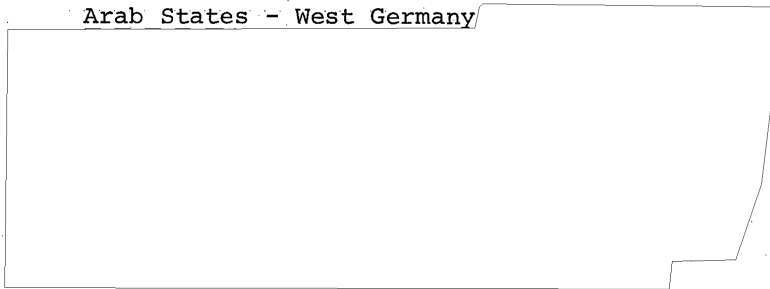


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Arab States - West Germany



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